LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHARLIE BECK Chief of Police



P. O. Box 30158 Los Angeles, California 90030 Telephone: (213) 978-2100 TDD: (877) 275-5273 Reference Number: 14.4

August 16, 2012

Mr. Max Felker-Kantor University of Southern California Department of History Social Sciences Building (SOS) 153 3502 Trousdale Parkway Los Angeles, California 90089-0034

Dear Mr. Felker-Kantor:

This letter is to respond to your request, dated August 4, 2012, and received by the Los Angeles Police Department ("Department") Discovery Section on August 6, 2012, for records pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Cal. Govt. Code Section 6250, et seq., hereafter "CPRA" or "Act."). While your request was directed to the Department, it appears that the executive office of the Board of Police Commissioners ("Commission") is also in possession of certain responsive documents. Therefore, please treat this letter as the response of both the Department and the Commission.

The Police Department and the Commission are cognizant of their responsibilities under the Act. They recognize that the statutory scheme was enacted in order to maximize citizen access to the workings of government. However, the Act does not mandate the disclosure of all documents within the government's possession. Rather, by specific exemption and reference to other statutes, the Act recognizes that there are boundaries where the public's right to access must be balanced against such weighty considerations as the right of privacy, a right of constitutional dimension under California Constitution, Article 1, Section 1. The law also exempts from disclosure records that are privileged or confidential or otherwise exempt under either express provisions of the CPRA or pursuant to applicable federal or state law.

Specifically, your request seeks the following:

Materials relating to the Office of the Chief of Police under Chief William Parker, Chief Edward Davis, and Chief Daryl Gates between the years (1965 and 1992) including inter-departmental correspondence, meeting minutes, and policy directives. These materials are in Records Groups PDX, PDX/80, PDX/82, PDX/98 and PDC.

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The other subject of the materials I am requesting relate to civil rights organizations, community groups, responses to urban unrest and riots by the police department, and policies relating to gaugs and drug trafficking during between [sic] 1965 and 1992.

Response:

Commission staff has identified approximately 173 boxes containing potentially responsive documents. The Department has identified approximately 81 boxes containing documents which may be responsive to your request. Consequently, there are approximately 254 total boxes potentially responsive to your request. There is an estimated 3,000 plus pages of documents in each box.

While both the Department and Commission are aware that some sort of access to the records contained in the boxes identified may have been granted pursuant to requests dating back to the 1980s and 1990s, there is no way of knowing the scope of that access, and whether information and/or complete documents were redacted under exemptions of the Act. Therefore, the Department and Commission must treat your request as calling for a new and independent review of the contents of the subject boxes, in order to make this preliminary assessment.

The LAPD Discovery Unit is responsible for myriad responsibilities associated with the records of the Department, including but not limited to responding to California Public Records Act requests, letter requests, motions in criminal and civil cases for access to confidential and privileged peace officer personnel records, and subpoenas. All of these tasks are performed by a limited number of assigned personnel, whose work schedules have been severely impacted by the fiscal challenges facing the Department, and the City generally.

Notwithstanding the above, both the Department and Commission desire to provide the greatest degree of access to the documents in question as is reasonably possible, and legally permissible. In that regard, the boxes will be made available for your inspection immediately following a review of each box's contents by the Department, to identify any records (or information) over which an exemption would lawfully apply. As each box review is concluded, you will be notified of its availability. It is estimated that staff assigned to perform this task, in addition to their other assigned duties and responsibilities, will make every effort to complete 1-2 box reviews per week. Please note that more boxes may be available per week, depending on the overall nature of the documents contained therein.

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Copies of any record shall be made following payment of the direct cost of duplication. Please note that only checks or money orders are processed at the counter. Make your check/money order payable to the LAPD. You may pick up the documents during the hours and location listed below:

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays

Location:

LAPD - Discovery Section

201 N. Los Angeles St., Space 301

Los Angeles, CA 90012

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Senior Management Analyst Greg Toyama of the Discovery Section at (213) 978-2178.

Very truly yours,

CHARLIE BECK Chief of Police

MARTIN BLAND, Senior Management Analyst

Martin Bland

Officer-in-Charge, Discovery Section

Risk Management Division

cc: Richard Tefank, Executive Director, Los Angeles Police Commission